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RHMCSUU/FBI WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC PRIORITY
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S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 KUWAIT 004653

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TAGS: [PTER](#) [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [ASEC](#) [KU](#) [TERRORISM](#)

SUBJECT: KUWAIT COUNTERTERRORISM WORKING GROUP MEETING
(12/10/2006)

REF: A. A) KUWAIT 4585
[1](#)B. B) KUWAIT 4506
[1](#)C. C) KUWAIT 4581
[1](#)D. D) KUWAIT 4562

Classified By: Ambassador Richard LeBaron for reasons 1.4(b) and (d).

[1](#)1. (S/NF) On December 10, Ambassador chaired the regular meeting of the mission's Counterterrorism Working Group (CWG). The meeting was attended by section chiefs or representatives of POL, ECON, DATT, OMC-K, RSO, CONS, PA, FCS, and SIMO. The purpose of these regular meetings is identification and coordination of efforts underway by USG agencies to assist Kuwait with C/T issues; the meetings do not focus on assessments of the security situation, more appropriately covered in the EAC. Ambassador opened the meeting with a brief review of the recent assessment visit from the UN Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate, noting that the team seemed well-briefed on the strengths and weaknesses of the Kuwaiti C/T approach. While a useful effort, the UN relies largely on bilateral efforts to provide needed assistance. The assessments are useful to the extent that they highlight areas of weakness in Kuwaiti C/T policy and programs, (ref A).

[1](#)2. (S/NF) SIMO noted continuing robust information exchange with Kuwait State Security (KSS) and Kuwait Military Intelligence (KMI) on a range of issues including Iraq, Iran and Hezbollah. KSS and KMI continue to expend substantial resources on force protection efforts for U.S. personnel and convoys. SIMO Chief said U.S.-provided training had increased this year through his organization. He cited the GOK need to improve capabilities across the board, particularly tradecraft and technical capabilities. DATT noted that following the initial phase of DIA-funded human intelligence training, Kuwait will likely pursue further training through private contractors.

[1](#)3. (C/NF) ECON reported that a recent tour of Kuwait National Petroleum Corporation infrastructure security systems by Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism (ref B) demonstrated a strong commitment to protection but some gaps in integration of systems and planning. The GOK has expressed interest in assistance with long-term strategic planning. OMC-K noted that the upcoming visit of a CENTCOM security assessment team may provide opportunities to examine these issues. FCS reported that testing of a new U.S.-manufactured maritime netting system designed to protect critical infrastructure located near the Kuwaiti coast would begin in December 2006. FCS also

reported several security projects that were under consideration by the GOK including a geospatial analysis system as part of an overall homeland security infrastructure project, and a closed circuit TV project with up to 20,000 cameras throughout Kuwait. Ambassador asked that mission elements work to ensure that efforts are not duplicated due to Kuwaiti requests to different sources for the same technical assistance, or lack of communication between USG agencies offering essentially the same services.

14. (SBU) ECON reviewed U.S. training received by the GOK on Combating Cash Smuggling and Financial Investigative Techniques. The Central Bank of Kuwait and National Bank of Kuwait convened a regional conference on money laundering in November 2006. Recommendations coming out of a Treasury Department assessment visit included the need to empower staffing for the Finance Ministry's Financial Intelligence Unit and training for charities in basic auditing techniques. Customs rep recommended that IRS be encouraged to assist the FIU to reach international standards and to seek a dialogue with the Central Bank. He also noted the need for laws regulating cash declarations for outbound travelers. He encouraged discussions with the Public Prosecutor about using experienced money laundering investigative personnel on the Customs staff to assist with the development of cases for prosecution.

15. (C/NF) POL noted the section would be engaging the GOK on strengthening the legal tools available to prosecutors for terror-related offenses. POL also reviewed preparations for Ambassador's participation in the December 20 regional CT initiative meeting in Washington. RSO noted a potential decrease in funding for CT training for Kuwait through the

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Anti-Terrorism Assistance program. Four training sessions are tentatively scheduled for 2007: Airport Security, Integrated CT Training for Senior Level Officials, Crisis Response Training, and a senior level consultation on a subject to be determined. RSO said cooperation with the MOI is strong on physical security support assistance, and adequate on law enforcement issues. He noted the need for an extradition treaty or Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty for Kuwaitis and/or third country nationals. CONS said that an aggressive Security Advisory Opinion process was in place, and that the Visas Viper system was periodically generating persons to be entered.

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